

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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R 240850Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6215

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2343

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YE

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

1. IN AUG 18 HERALD TRIBUNE, WHICH REACHED THIS EMBASSY YESTERDAY, DISPATCH (WHICH COPIED IN PARA BELOW) DESCRIBES ALLEGED PLOT TO OVERTHROW HAMDI AND RESTORE MUTAWAKKILITE IMAMATE UNDER PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN HUSSEIN.

2. THIS IS REMARKABLE SIMILAR TO STORY WHICH SOVIET CHARGE GAVE ME EARLIER (SANA 2311). SO FAR AS WE KNOW, STORY IS NOT RPT NOT TRUE. SOVIETS MAY HAVE LEAKED STORY TO TRY TO CREATE APPEARANCE OF VULNERABILITY ON HAMDI'S PART, AND TO COMPLICATE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SAUDIS AND YARG. ALTERNATIVELY, YARG ELEMENTS MAY HAVE LEAKED PARTS OF STORY ABOUT ABDALLAH BIN HUSSEIN'S CORRESPONDENCE IN ORDER TO TAR HIM WITH INVOLVEMENT WITH REACTIONARIES.

3. COMMENT: FIRST EXPLANATION SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO US. IF YARG WANTED TO MOVE AGAINST SHAYKH ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR, THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LEAKED WHOLE STORY OF ABDALLAH'S BOTCHED EFFORTS AT CONSPIRACY. AS IT IS, THREAT OF RELEASING INCRIMINATIONS CORRESPONDENCE WHICH ABDALLAH KNOWS IS IN HANDS OF YARG--IN PROBABLY KEEPING THE SHAYKH IN LINE.

4. DISPATCH FOLLOWS: QUOTE: HEADLINE: YEMEN REPORTED TO THRART COUP. BEIRUT. AUG 17 (AP)--A PLOT TO STAGE A COUP AND RESTORE THE MONARCHY IN THE 13-YEAR OLD REPUBLIC OF YEMEN HAS
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BEEN SMASHED BY THE MILITARY REGIME OF COL IBRAHIM AL-HAMDI

THE BEIRUT NEWSPAPER IN NAHAR REPORTED YESTERDAY. IN A DISPATCH FROM SANA, THE YEMENI CAPITAL, THE NEWSPAPER SAID THAT THE ALLEGED PLOT WAS MASTERMINDED BY PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN HUSSEIN, COUSIN OF DEPOSED IMAN MOHAMMED AL-BADR. THE PRINCE, WHO LIVES IN THE SAUDI SUMMER RESORT OF TAYEF, WAS SUPPORTED BY YEMENI TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS, AN NAHAR SAID. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT OF KING KHALED, THE PAPER ADDED, HAS DISCLAIMED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ALLEGED COUP AND COL HAMDI'S GOVERNMENT WANTS SAUDI ARABIA TO EXPEL PRINCE HUSSEIN. UNQUOTE.
RANSOM

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